ing, &c., and there was a net saving of 588*l.* 17*s.* by manufacturing their own gas. This report, therefore, fully justifies our exposal of "the average cost of gas" from the records of an extensive establishment at Leicester obtained for the purpose. The meeting passed resolutions expressive of their determination, and advised the appointment of gas inspectors by the City authorities, and the stamping and adjustment of meters, as of all other measures and weights. A continued 'pressure from without' upon the authorities was also resolved on.——A hybrid between a consumers' company and one of the old stock has been announced as "The Surrey Consumers' Gas-light and Coke Association," for the supply of gas at 5*s.* per 1,000 cubic feet, with a bonus to the consumer of one-fourth of the profits, the other three-fourths being reserved to the proprietors, who are also to sell superior screened coals at a reduced price, using the small for coke. The general want of faith in meters is proposed to be obviated by a return, where desired, to the contract system, at charges per burner ranging from 2*l.* to 4*l.* per annum—surely far too high, as the 5*s.* per 1,000 also is, in these economical and reforming times, and especially with profits on coal, &c.——In an unsuccessful attempt of the Bedford County magistrates lately to get the price of gas supplied to the prison reduced, the gas company confessed that "the practice of making a difference in the charges between public bodies and private individuals was unjust." The price charged is 7*s.* 6*d.*—not a fair price, as the county surveyor maintained. Six shillings were offered, but refused by the company, and the surveyor stated, when the subject of making their own gas was under consideration, that while 75*l.* per annum was payable to the company for lighting the prison, works would cost in all only 600*l.*, expense of making the gas nothing, and saving on whole at least 3*s.* per 1,000 feet. Parties had undertaken to supply both gaol and town at a moderate rate. The Bedford Company, we perceive, by the way, sell their coke at 25*s.* per ton—'*reduced* price'—a fact that may hereafter be of use.——At Lynn the price of gas has been reduced to the still rather too respectable price of 7*s.* per 1,000 feet. ——At Cambridge, lately, while the authorities had the subject of gas under discussion, and on a statement being made that the profits of the company did not amount to 10 per cent., an exposure was made by Mr. Foster of the but too general falsity of such statements. By this company's act a capital at least double what is called for or necessary, or in fact used, is authorised, and on the whole of this the goodly interest or profit of nearly 10 per cent. is thus being reaped. "After a careful examination," added Mr. Foster, "I am prepared to prove that the cost price of gas ranges below 2*s.* 6*d.* per 1,000 cubic feet, taking every thing into consideration. That would bear a profit of 1*s.* 6*d.* at a price of 4*s.* I trust the company will read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest these things. Taking the necessary capital at 15,000*l.*, the per centage is thus at once raised to 18 per cent."——A correspondent of the *Liverpool Albion* complains, that since the amalgamation of the companies there, he can scarcely distinguish the three *rs*,—fish, flesh, and fowl, at his dinner table, by the light they supply him with.—— While Liverpool is thus retrograding into the darkness, some of those few primitive localities, which have never till now come out of it, are at length rejoicing in the light. Such, with the new year's advent, is the new state of things at Soham.——An ingenious pitman at Garesfield colliery, near Gateshead, according to the local *Observer*, has of late been fitting up miniature gas works, for single establishments, at about 25*l.* each. A Mr. Thomas Waugh, of Berry Edge, Gateshead, a publican, is amongst those already supplied.

"THE INDEX."—Under this title the spirited manager of the Western Literary Institution has commenced "a weekly Repertory of the Results of Modern Progress." It was the first to give an abstract of Mr. Staite's patent, enrolled on the 12th. We do not find anything in this specification, by the way, which removes our fear as to the cost of producing the light.

A DEMONSTRATION ON KENNINGTON COMMON.

THE open spaces, known as squares, which peculiarly distinguished London from other metropolitan cities, have always been a theme of gratulation for healthful purpose, notwithstanding access to the enclosures is available only to a privileged few, and the external boundaries are not always kept in the neatest trim. The portion of the metropolis on the Surrey side, embracing so great an extent, is singularly deficient in this leading feature, with but one available exception. This is Kennington Common, an open area covering an exposure of seventeen acres. This ample space would make amends for the absence of lesser sanitary valves, if it were put into a condition for leisurable enjoyment and rational recreation. As this common and a great portion of the adjacent neighbourhood forming the manor of Kennington, an appendage of the Duchy of Cornwall, it exhibits a sad neglect of the administration of this property that such visible neglect should exist. The want of funds can never be pleaded for an excuse, as only within a short period the sum of 75,000*l.* has been paid as a fine on renewal of the lease of the manor. This sum was exacted on account of the improvement of the value of the property, and surely it would be augmented in a great proportion beyond the outlay, if a small part of the above fine were applied to rescuing this seventeen-acre common from its present degraded and dilapidated state.

In its present condition it is fenced with a low wooden rail, much of which disappeared at the Chartist meeting of April 10th last year, and a bar or a rail vanishes so frequently since that it may soon become an open waste, liable to all kinds of pollution. The ground is a flat, lying below the level of the surrounding roads, worked into numerous hollows, with some pathway tracks crossing it as innocent of a layer of fresh gravel, as the trails of wanderers over the endless prairies of the far west. The stunted herbage is trodden and soiled by a troop of cows belonging to a neighbouring milkman. A kind of pond near one corner, and a deep ditch opposite South-place, are the cemeteries of all the dead puppies and kittens of the vicinity. Their decaying carcases may be seen floating on the surface of their watery graves, in all the green and purple tints of putrefaction, and smelt too, if the nose is not too strongly tickled by the fumes of the adjacent vitriol works. A diagonal trackway from Newington-place to the Brixton and Camberwell roads, is a great saving of distance to the tired, but after nightfall the pedestrian is exposed to annoyance, and, when the weather proves continuously wet, the transit resembles the intricate navigation of an archipelago.

In the day time the common is the resort of idle youths occupied in low gambling, and towards the afternoon of summer days, numerous parties playing at cricket obstruct the paths in all directions, and render any desire of tranquil respiration liable to the penalty of having an eye knocked out or a nose broken, which have happened on occasions. The respectable persons who sometimes use it as a cricket ground need not complain of any privation of their amusement, as not more than a hundred yards from the common, the enclosure of the Oval offers, at a very insignificant cost, ample accommodation, without causing annoyance or creating danger.

The extensive vitriol works on the eastern side emit a constant stream of sulphuric vapour exceedingly annoying to the nostrils. Whether the inhaling of it is beneficial or injurious to the lungs, is a question that ought to be answered by the sanitary oracles, but at any rate, they are so offensive to respiration that one is always glad to escape from their range. There can be no mistake though of the impurity of the ditches around and about the vitriol works: a very long one leading towards Camberwell, skirted by a foot-path, presents an accumulation of black offensive muddy liquid, receiving constant contributions from numerous unmentionable conveniences attached to a line of low cottage erections. The drainage of this locality being remarkably difficult, the foul matter of these ditches can only be absorbed by atmospheric action, instead of being conveyed to the "cloaca maxima," or universal cesspool, called the Thames.

Kennington Common, seventeen acres in extent, would at some outlay by able hands, become a great ornament to the southern half of the metropolis, if it were planted and laid out on a similar principle to the enclosure in St. James's-park. A broad walk should intersect it from Newington-place to the Brixton-road. Raised, gravelled, and lighted, it would become a public convenience, and it might be fenced off slightly, with occasional openings to be shut after dark. The entire circuit should be enclosed with a handsome railing, and gates at the required entrances. Opposite the Horns Tavern, a lodge, with a portico, might be introduced, in which some of the Quadrant cast-off columns would assist to construct an architectural ornament, in addition to an erection of utility.

About a mile beyond this, another smaller open space is in a worse condition of filth and neglect. Camberwell-green has been suffered to be converted into a vast deposit of slush and mud of all descriptions. Carts are constantly emptying their contents into it; and it is now so loaded with soft wet stuff, that any attempt to penetrate otherwise than by the narrow beaten track, would inevitably plunge the daring adventurer knee deep. A solitary ancient tree in the centre wears the weeds of witherhood, and a few dwarf lime trees on one of the sides seem ashamed to bear any leaves. Camberwell-green will soon be a misnomer.

IDLER IN LONDON.

VENTILATION: WARMING.

THE subject of ventilation is not confined to the dwelling-house alone, but extends to the air of cities and towns. It is scarcely necessary to allude to the innumerable sources of deleterinus vapours, exhalations, odours, and gases that are constantly generated in cities where there is a deficiency in sewers, pavements, water, and general habits of order and cleanliness. This subject fortunately has attracted much attention, and is beginning to be pretty generally known.

History informs us that pestilence, the scourge of society, has prevailed frequently and virulently in ages, countries, and even special districts, in which cleanliness and the proper ventilation of houses have been little considered. Without entering on the various theories respecting the exciting causes of pestilential disease, a little research will afford sufficient proof that want of cleanliness has been a principal cause of their aggravation and rapid diffusion. If we read the account of our own metropolis during the last calamitous visitation of the plague in 1665, and compare it with its present state, we may convince ourselves, that our present exemption from the recurrence of such an evil is secured to us on better grounds than those of precautionary laws of quarantine. At that period, in the history of that vast city, the streets were narrow, the houses projected in the upper story, and the spaces between them crowded with large signs hung across, thus checking the free circulation of air, essentially necessary for the health of the inhabitants.

To the miasma constantly engendered and rising from open drains and neglected sewers, were added those caused by the fermentation of heaps of rubbish ejected from every house, and which the indolent inhabitants could scarcely be compelled to remove. Nature has provided means of carrying off impure air and replacing it with such as is suited to animal respiration; but here its intentions were defeated both by the construction of the buildings and the habits of the people. Drainage as well as ventilation of the buildings, was at one time totally disregarded, and the result was, a perpetual recurrence of fevers.

G. J. R.

Another correspondent, S. S. T., calls attention to the common practice of planning and running up buildings, without first arranging the mode of warming and ventilating them. He says,—It often happens that, from want of this previous arrangement, the kind of apparatus best adapted to the purpose cannot be used; or the walls have to be cut into, disturbing their solidity; or something unsightly

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